

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Contact:  
Nathaniel Nichols, Area Management Biologist  
Natura Richardson, Asst. Area Management Biologist

Kodiak Area Office  
351 Research Court  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Phone: (907) 486-1840  
Fax: (907) 486-1824

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#### **2018 Tanner Crab Seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of 2017 Tanner crab survey results from the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts. Commercial Tanner crab fisheries in these districts may occur when the estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab meets or exceeds abundance thresholds and minimum guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established in regulation (5 AAC 35.507. *Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts C. bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategies*).

**Kodiak District:** Mature male abundance thresholds are established for six sections in the Kodiak District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(1)(A-F)). A minimum of two sections must meet or exceed established mature male abundance thresholds before a commercial fishery may open. In sections that meet or exceed the abundance thresholds, abundance must also be sufficient to provide for a GHL of at least 100,000 pounds per section and at least 400,000 pounds total for all open sections in the district. Based on 2017 Kodiak District survey results, Eastside and Southwest sections exceeded regulatory mature male abundance thresholds and minimum section GHL requirements. Together these two sections met the Kodiak District 400,000 pound total GHL requirement; therefore, the Kodiak District will open for the 2018 commercial Tanner crab season in the Eastside and Southwest sections. **The 2018 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab GHLs will be 260,000 pounds in the Eastside Section and 140,000 pounds in the Southwest Section.** The Northeast, Southeast, Westside, North Mainland, and South Mainland sections will remain closed for the 2018 commercial Tanner crab season.

By regulation, the Semidi Island Overlap Section opens when either the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District or the Chignik District is open; therefore, the Semidi Island Overlap Section will open in 2018 to vessel validly registered for the Kodiak District fishery.

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Fisheries in the Eastside, Southwest, and Semidi Island Overlap sections will be monitored inseason and section or subsection closures may occur before GHGs are fully harvested based on fishery performance and harvest distribution.

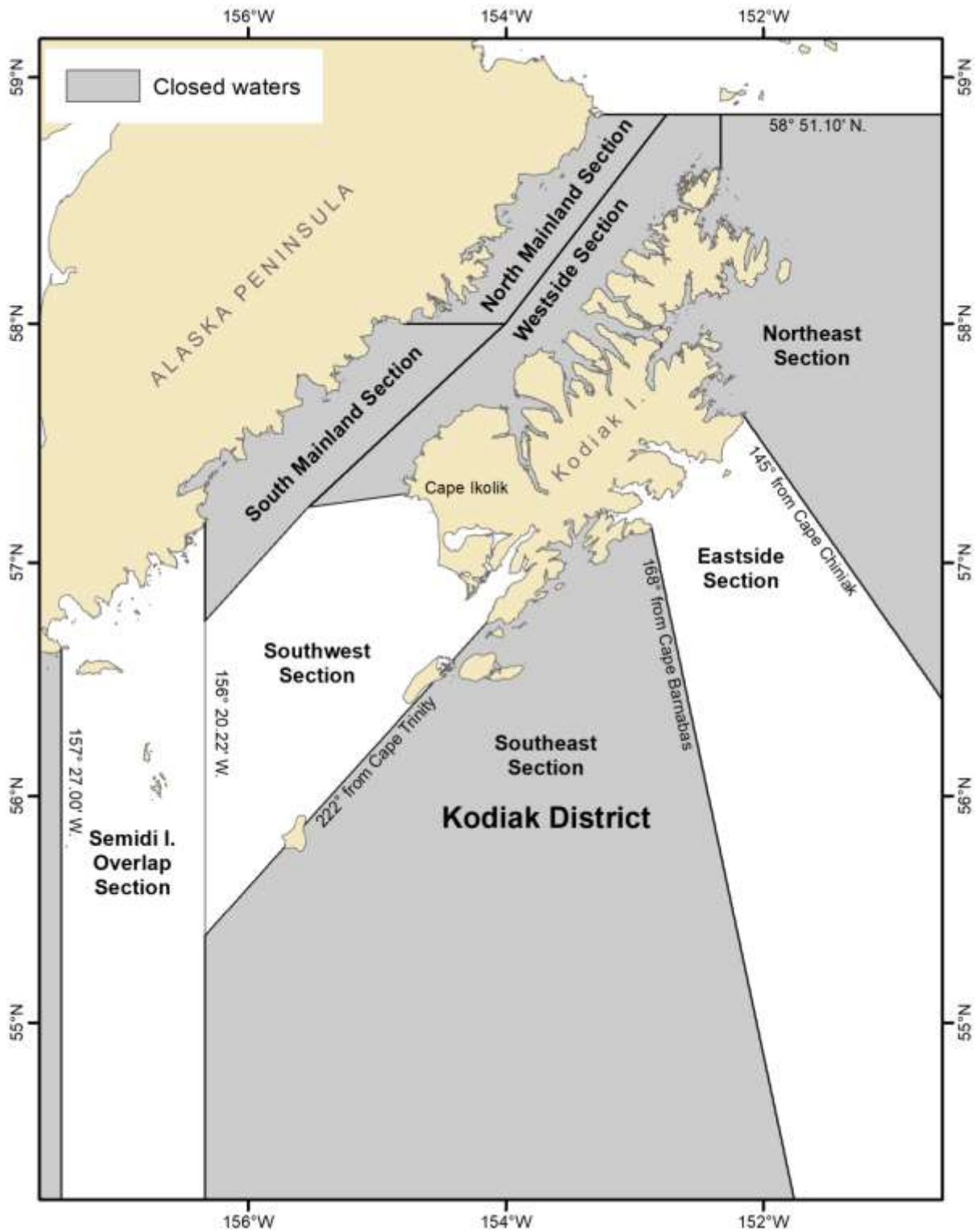
The Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season will open at noon on January 15, 2018 unless delayed by weather. The 2018 Kodiak District Tanner crab GHG is below 2,000,000 pounds; therefore, the regulatory pot limit is 20 pots per vessel in the Eastside and Southwest sections and 70 pots per vessel in the Semidi Island Overlap Section. Additional information regarding buoy tags, registration, weather delays, inseason catch reporting, and fishery management actions will be provided in subsequent news releases prior to the season opening.

**Chignik District:** A single mature male abundance threshold is established for the Chignik District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(2)). Abundance must be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHG of 200,000 pounds before a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur in the district. The 2017 survey abundance estimate of mature male Tanner crab was below the regulatory abundance threshold; therefore, the Chignik District will remain closed for the 2018 commercial Tanner crab season.

**South Peninsula District:** Mature male abundance thresholds are established for two sections (Eastern and Western) in the South Peninsula District (5 AAC 35.507(b)(3)(A and B)). In a section that meets or exceeds the abundance threshold, abundance must also be sufficient to provide for a minimum GHG of 200,000 pounds before either section may open to commercial fishing. The 2017 survey abundance estimates of mature male Tanner crab were below regulatory thresholds for both Eastern and Western sections; therefore, the South Peninsula District will remain closed for the 2018 commercial Tanner crab season.

For additional information on Tanner crab harvest strategies or survey results, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

Closed waters for the 2018 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season.



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